

biopsy in some types of neurodegenerative disease. Indeed it is frequently observed that brain biopsies are less common in routine neuropathology than in the past.

When it comes to "Tissue Culture in the Diagnosis of Brain Tumours" we are given an attractively presented account of the methods and results of tissue culture. While the interest and importance of tissue culture are without question there remains some doubt about its usefulness specifically as a diagnostic tool, as the pressure of clinical decision making calls for increasing reliance on rapid diagnostic techniques. There are other topics in brain tumour diagnosis that might have been of greater value.

In summary it is a book that will be consulted, and one that is worthy of a place in a library concerned with the neurosciences.

RO BARNARD

Atlas of Human Parasitology. 3rd ed. LR Ash, TC Orihel. (Pp 272; \$142.00.) The Raven Press. 1990. ISBN 0 89189 305 9

To use superlatives is always dangerous, particularly in book reviews, but the combination of such a well planned layout with such an excellently produced book makes the use of the word "best" irresistible. If this is not, by any criteria, the best book on human parasites currently available I should be surprised. The text is succinct, the illustrations brilliant in clarity, and the notes about the various creatures' life cycles and nasty little habits comprehensive.

Any histopathology, microbiology, or haematology workers will find the book interesting and helpful, but it is for diagnostic use only. There is nothing about therapy, and the authors have rightly and single-mindedly stuck to their purpose. They see the work as an adjunct to standard reference texts and purely as a tool to aid diagnosis and morphological recognition. As such it has to be a paragon.

JS LILLEYMAN

Progress in Surgical Pathology. Vol XI. Ed CM Fenoglio-Preiser, M Wolff, F Rilke. (Pp 251; DM 180.00.) Springer. 1990. ISBN 3-540-51361-2.

Half the chapters in this multiauthor book are reviews: dysplasia in Barrett's oesophagus; colitis (nothing new to material available in standard textbooks); the pathogenesis of ischaemic bowel (excellent discussion of superoxide radicle formation on reperfusion); anterior mediastinal tumour immunocytochemistry (self-indulgent in text, illustration and references); a dossier of C cells and their tumours (little new), followed by a fairly technical account of their ability to produce other polypeptides.

Other chapters are on very uncommon conditions (dysplasia in colonic schistosomal egg polyps, Wolffian adenomas of ovary, malignant peripheral nerve tumours, and a single testicular tumour report) are better suited to journal format. Immunocytochemistry figures prominently, and curiously eight pages of colour plates are also reproduced in black and white.

This is a book for library rather than workbench but most of its matter is probably already there.

AM MACKAY

Bone Marrow Purging and Processing. Ed S Cross, AP Gee, DA Worthington-White. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 333. (Pp 561; \$129.50.) John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1989. ISBN 0-471-56716-7.

This volume documents the proceedings on the second international symposium on bone marrow purging before autologous bone marrow grafting. Most papers concentrate on the increasingly varied means of in vitro negative selection of tumour cells from bone marrow, using mainly antibodies or pharmacological agents. One feels that however sophisticated these techniques become, they are unlikely to be completely successful due to tumour cell heterogeneity in immunophenotype or sensitivity, and there is the attendant risk of damage to haemopoietic progenitors which may lead to prolonged cytopenias following marrow infusion. In this respect the section perhaps of greatest interest deals with methods to select haemopoietic progenitors. The initial Seattle experience with CD34 positive stem cell transplants is an indication of the promise of this approach. This book will be of great value to transplant centres as a state of the art review of purging techniques and results.

NH RUSSELL

Urologic Pathology with Clinical and Radiologic Correlations. Ed A Someren (Pp 755; £76.) Maxwell Communications 1990. ISBN 0-241-37502.

For a time there was a dearth of textbooks on urological pathology, then suddenly there appeared to be a glut. Is this new book like the many other recent textbooks on the subject, or is it sufficiently different to warrant specific recommendation?

Someren's book is primarily for pathologists but the emphasis is very much on the clinical aspects of disease processes. The multidisciplinary approach stresses the importance of clinical and radiological findings in reaching a pathological diagnosis and clearly demonstrates the role of the pathologist in the clinical team. It is well illustrated with clinical, radiological, and pathological pictures and gives the pathologist a clear understanding of clinical features. It clearly describes how to handle pathological specimens.

The book has 28 contributors and seven chapters dealing with the kidney, urinary tract and bladder, renal transplantation, prostate and seminal vesicles, testis, penis and scrotum, and adrenal glands. It is well written and readable throughout, and the numerous photographs and diagrams are useful. In spite of the fact that the authors had difficulty in spelling my own name, I recommend this book as being valuable to pathologists, clinicians, and radiologists with a special interest in urology.

KM GRIGOR

Oral Candidosis. Ed LP Samaranayake, T Wallace MacFarlane. (Pp 265; £60.) Butterworths. 1990. ISBN 0 7236 0983 7

This new book contains chapters contributed by 16 authors from nine countries. Topics include the biology, ecology and epidemiology, and virulence factors of *Candida*; host factors, immunology, clinical classification, acute and AIDS-related oral candidiasis; denture stomatitis and angular cheilitis, leucoplakia, chronic multifocal candidosis and median rhomboid glossitis,

chronic mucocutaneous candidosis; and laboratory diagnosis and antifungal agents. The text is well illustrated, including 24 colour high quality photographs, and some 1500 references to published work.

Anticipated readership includes postgraduate dental and medical practitioners, oral and medical microbiologists, and undergraduates. Those with a special interest in oral candidosis will find this book a valuable addition to their bookshelves.

Two major reference books are already available on *Candida* and candidosis, and it is legitimate to question if another is justified. On the evidence presented—yes. As the editors point out, there has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of papers dealing with oral candidosis. This new text provides a rich source of information on this important topic, and brings together information which is presently scattered throughout medical publications.

DWR MACKENZIE

Clinical Immunohematology: Basic Concepts and Clinical Applications. Wendell F Rosse. (Pp 677; \$95.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1990. ISBN 0-86542-038-6.

This book presents its subject matter in two parts—about half to basic immunohaematology and half to clinical immunohaematology. The first part provides a readable and well illustrated account of antigens, antibodies and their interaction, and includes a long chapter dealing with complement and its dependent mechanisms, with nearly 500 references. In the clinical part of the book the emphasis appears in places to be on the pathogenesis of disease more than on therapeutic detail. For example, the cited figure of up to 40% mortality following fetal transfusion does not reflect current achievements. The text is also misleading in defining the dose of anti-D immunoglobulin which will clear fetal cells following transplacental haemorrhage.

With the exception of the two chapters dealing with HLA and paternity testing contributed by Dr Emily Reisler (one might have expected reference in the latter to the use of DNA probes), the book has been written by Professor Rosse. In the preface he argues that the unity given by a single viewpoint is worth both the effort and the lack of detailed knowledge in some areas. I think that he has succeeded in the task which he set himself and provided a useful addition to the haematologist's bookshelf.

D LEE

Diagnostic Function Tests in Chemical Pathology. PT Lascelles, D Donaldson. (Pp 217; £30.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1990. ISBN 0-7462-0108-0.

This book comprises details of some 80 dynamic function tests. For each, the principle of the test is given, together with indications for its use and the protocol. The normal response is described and guidance provided on the interpretation of results.

A book of this sort is potentially useful. With the passage of time, laboratories often evolve their own protocols for tests of this sort without necessarily validating them. Unfortunately, few original references are provided and there are no indications as to whether the accounts of tests incorporate any modifications to original descriptions. The authors indicate in their preface that several of the